

Torrance Grad Receives Heroism Award

Torrance

Press-Herald

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Wary Councilmen Delay Bid Seeking Federal Park Grant

Attorney Asked To Search Out Hidden Strings

City Councilmen are determined not to become entangled in strings attached to a federal recreation grant. Looking askance at more than \$600,000 in federal funds, Councilmen voted to postpone acceptance of the grant for two weeks until City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer can come up with a thorough study of possible objectionable conditions attached to the money.

The grant is available to the city to help purchase a 52-acre park site in North Torrance. The proposed site is located at the corner of Hawthorne Boulevard and 190th Street, bounded by Prairie Avenue and 186th Street.

POSTPONEMENT of the grant decision followed a statement from Councilman William J. Uerkwitz that there were at least "seven or eight restrictions" attached to the federal recreation funds. Councilmen had been told earlier by city Recreation Director Harry B. Van Bellehem the only grant condition was that the money be used for the stated recreational purposes.

Councilman Donald E. Wilson said he was "appalled at the lack of faith in the federal government" expressed by some of the other councilmen, but joined the other six in voting for the investigation. "This is another way we can benefit from the taxes we pay into the federal government," Dr. Wilson stated.

Councilman Jay Beasley also voted for the investigation, although he termed it a "delaying tactic to build up opposition."

THE CITY will be required to purchase only 25 acres of the 52 acres within the park site. Seventeen acres will be donated to city by CBS and the remaining 10 acres will come from Southern California Edison Co. under a long-term lease.

Cost of the land that must be purchased is about \$1,248,670. A portion of the money—\$236,483—will come from a 1964 state recreation bond. City figures indicate that if Torrance accepts the \$624,335 federal Open Space Grant, only \$387,852 will have to come from the city's general fund.

The largest park presently owned by the City of Torrance is seven acres.

IN FURTHER action, the Council voted 5-2 to retain its current methods of appointing members to city commissions. The decision followed rejection of two new proposals. The Council appointed Commission Study Committee composed of Councilmen Ross Sciarrotta, Uerkwitz, and Wilson to look into the question and present a report within the next four months. Until this report is completed, however, all current commissioners' terms will be extended.

COUNCILMEN revised their policy on sign variance appeal last night after hearing a "hardship story" from Food Fair market official Albert Gianni. Gianni said the market, at 2121 W. 182nd St., had invested a great deal of money in two large business signs, which were currently an eyesore in their unfinished condition. Construction halted when the Planning Commission refused to okay a varient backing for the signs, which would make them larger than ordinary standards.

The Council decided to grant Gianni the variance, ruling that future sign questions should be turned over to a city planning review board with appeal to the City Council. Variances are currently handled by a Planning Board.

Board Rejects Request For Cadet Corps Class

The father of a West High student is protesting the rejection of a cadet corps unit by the board of education.

Charles O. Bartlett wrote a letter to the board to express concern over the failure to approve the cadet program for the 1968-69 school year. After leaving Monday's board meeting, the veteran of 20 years of military service said he will make determined efforts to have the program recognized.

The California Cadet Corps Unit was submitted by the administration and West High Principal Dr. Robert Ford at meetings in March and April. A 2-2 vote failed to win support for the curriculum. Dissenting were Mrs. Polly Watts and Bill Hanson.

When the program was prematurely offered to students at West High, it became

necessary to rearrange student programs which listed the cadet program.

When Bartlett's complaint was heard Monday, Board President Dr. Owen Griffith joined with Mrs. Watts and Hanson in taking a stand opposing the unit.

Past President Bert Lynn favors the program.

Bartlett pointed out in his letter the cadet unit is the first program offered in physical education which has any thing of value to offer youngsters.

According to Bartlett, The California Cadet Corps Unit is an important course for a boy who seeks an appointment to a military academy.

The board members who opposed the course expressed concern over the controversial nature of the cadet program.

Shooting Suspect Arrested

West Los Angeles police have arrested a suspect in connection with last week's barroom murder of a Harbor City man.

Taken into custody was Coy Lee Hall, 36, of 6241 St. Wilmington. He was picked up while trying to hitch a ride on Pacific Coast Highway.

Hall was sought in connection with the death of Berdell O. Hermann, 26, of 1317 W. Anaheim St., who was shot three times by a masked man.

The shooting took place at the Jaguar Bar, 1229 Wilmington Blvd., Wilmington. A second victim, Robert Schuler, 26, of 106½ Papeete St., Wilmington, was taken to Harbor General Hospital in satisfactory condition.

The suspect was taken to Los Angeles General Hospital jail ward for treatment of a head injury.

A Torrance man, Stanley Szczesniak, described the getaway car to police.

Board Will Fill Vacancy

Owen Griffith, president of the Torrance Board of Education, said candidates will be interviewed Saturday, for consideration to fill the vacancy on the board.

The appointment will be made at a special meeting, May 13, he announced.

The vacancy occurred April 9 when Dr. Donald E. Wilson, a member of the board, was elected to the Torrance City Council.

Airman Braves Fire; Saves Planes, Lives

The prized Airman's Medal has been awarded to Airman I.C. Robert C. Heers Jr., a 1964 graduate of South High School and later a student at Harbor College.

Airman Heer was cited in ceremonies held in England to honor him for "exemplary courage and heroism" at an English air base during a fire. In the Air Force since he enlisted in May, 1966, Heer has been stationed in England and expects to remain there until November, 1969.

Airman Heer was awarded the Airman's Medal for his actions at RAF Heyford in

England, last year when he successfully extinguished a fire after climbing on top of a burning refueling unit.

"By his heroic action, involving great personal risk, Airman Heer averted a possible disaster which could have resulted in the loss of several aircraft and the lives of other personnel working in the area," read the citation accompanying his medal.

Planning to visit him in July are his mother and a brother, Craig. They will spend a month with the Airman and his wife, the former Penny McBride of Torrance, who is with him in England. A month-long tour of Europe is being planned by the Airman and his visitors.

Mattie Frazier of Torrance told police she was restocking shelves at Cory's Liquor Store, 1954 W. Carson St., when she saw the first suspect approach the cash register. Holding a revolver to her head, the suspect ordered Mrs. Frazier to open the register.

A second suspect removed the cash.

The two then forced Mrs. Frazier to her knees and dragged her into the store-room.

Man Booked For Drunk Driving

Misdemeanor drunk driving charges were lodged Sunday against Firdnan T. Hobson, 36, of 4219 W. 179th St., after the pickup truck he was driving slammed into a car driven by 22-year-old Denis A. Gitscher, 1303 Acacia Blvd., police said.

The rear-end collision occurred about 10 p.m. at the corner of Torrance and Palos Verdes Boulevards, according to police.

Gitscher was treated at Little Company of Mary Hospital for back pains. Both vehicles sustained major damage.

Insanity Halts Death Trial

A ruling that Flora Agnes Duncan was insane and needed treatment in a state hospital halted her trial here Monday on charges that she was responsible for the death of her 72-year-old husband who died of severe burns, carbon monoxide poisoning, and smoke inhalation last Jan. 18 in the couple's downtown Torrance apartment. Judge Bernard Lawler issued an order granting treatment for the 67-year-old widow after considering reports submitted to him by two psychiatrists.

County Candidates Endorsed

In editorials published today on Page C-2, the Press-Herald recommends the re-election of three major county office holders: District Attorney Evelle J. Younger, and Supervisors Kenneth Hahn and Burton W. Chace. All Torrance area voters will have an opportunity to cast ballots for the District Attorney, and the Press-Herald has strongly urged the retention of Younger in this important office. Likewise, the records of service compiled by the two supervisors serving this area earn strong support for their re-election, the editorials point out.

Torrance Night at Dodgers

Tickets for Torrance's special night at Dodger Stadium are still available at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, 1510 Cravens Ave., or at the Recreation Department's Joslyn Center behind city hall. A block of reserved seats on the Terrace Level at Dodger Stadium are available at \$2.50 each for the Monday night, June 3 clash between the Dodgers and the Pittsburgh Pirates (angle in an 8 p.m. game. Pregame ceremonies with city and Chamber of Commerce officials, are being scheduled at the stadium.

Teacher Pay Dispute Put Off for Week

Torrance teachers will have to wait at least another week to find out how the disagreement over their salary schedules will work out.

The Board of Education Monday evening put off a decision on the matter for another week after failing to reach a firm agreement with the teachers' negotiating council over a 14-step salary grid. The proposal under discussion would provide a range of more than 60 wage scales.

As a teacher progresses with the school district, an annual increase in pay can be compounded by completing college degrees and credits. An across-the-board pay hike of from 6.75 per cent to 7 per cent is also in the package for next year.

The minimum salary for 1968-69 will be approximately \$6,619 for a new teacher and as much as \$13,027 for a teacher with the district 14 years, having a master's degree and 36 units or a bachelor's degree and 72 units.

Points of dispute are whether Step 14 should be combined with Step 13 and the establishment of a formula for the 108 teachers who

have already reached Step 14. Failure of the board to reach a decision on salaries prompted a motion to table the entire negotiations program for another week.

Remuneration for special assignments and fringe benefits were also held over.

John Conway, president of the negotiations council, announced later in the meeting that a mutually acceptable consultant is now required to settle differences between the board and the negotiations council.

Board President Dr. Owen Griffith passed over the request to reconsider the matter since it was already tabled for the week.

Law prohibits public officials from discussing official business, except during an open meeting. The Winton Act restrains three or more members of the 5-man school board from meeting privately with the negotiations council in any capacity.

Preliminary talks were handled through Dr. Robert Morton, administrative representative to the board.

Although Dr. Morton and

(Continued on Page 2)

Bishop Tells Confirmands To Stay on the 'Straight'

There are two ways to go, the street called Straight and Broadway, Bishop Gooden told a class of more than 20 confirmands at St. Paul's Cathedral in downtown Los Angeles Sunday.

Eight Torrance residents were among the 15 from Redondo Beach's Christ Church who joined with the class from St. Paul's at the Holy Communion confirmation service.

Bishop Gooden, nearing his 94th birthday and now retired

as Suffragan Bishop of Los Angeles Diocese to which he was named 38 years ago, told the confirmands and the congregation:

"The street called Broadway is easy and attractive but ends in disaster. It is crowded because it is easy.

"The straight street is not so crowded, but it has its reward—a life very fulfilling. After the service the family and friends of one of the confirmands planned luncheon at a well known downtown res-

taurant which one member recalled as "being on Broadway."

"We shouldn't go there," said the young confirmand, evincing the impact of Bishop Gooden's talk.

Confirmands from Torrance were:

Karen Anne Bailey, William Joseph Campillo, Enola Gilbert Cleveland, Jacquelyn June Cleveland, James Everett Graeme Jr., Laurie Hugford, Raymond Kent Kunz, and Carlene Smith.



RECEIVES MEDAL . . . Airman 1/c Robert C. Heer Jr., a South High graduate and former Harbor College student, receives the Airman's Medal in ceremonies in England citing him for heroism during a fire at an air installation there earlier.